

CHILDREN'S INCOME DISBURSEMENT SYSTEM (KIDS)

The Children's Income Disbursement System (KIDS), also known as the Alternative Care Trust Fund, is a collective account holding all income received from outside sources by children in alternative care. These sources include the Social Security Administration (SSA) for OASDI (Old-Age, Survivors, Disability Insurance) and SSI (Supplemental Security Income) benefits, the Veteran's Administration (VA), child support, and various other benefits that children might receive. The statute that governs the KIDS system is RSMo 210.560.

This account is child specific. All funds in the account are attributed directly to a specific child and may only be used for that child's cost of care such as maintenance and other costs specifically attributable to that child (clothing, etc.). A separate accounting is maintained for each child showing all outside income received by that child and all disbursements made from the child's income. There are no funds in the account other than income specific to children in alternative care. Funds from this account may never be used for any purpose other than a child's cost of care paid from his/her income.

Federal regulations related to OASDI, SSI, VA and child support benefits determine how a child's funds may be spent. The account is audited by state as well as federal auditors. In addition, the Children's Division (CD) must provide a yearly accounting to SSA as to how a child's benefits are spent. Local SSA offices also have access to each child's KIDS account screen so they may review the CD's accounting at any time. The CD is responsible for assuring that a child's benefits are spent only on those items deemed appropriate by federal regulations.